

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

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O R 071415Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8716

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMMBASSY NAIROBI 3770

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PRETORIA 4491

1. BOTH THE RHODESIAN REGIME AND THE SAG HAVE REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE BRITISH WHITE PAPER AND SMITH'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF SEPTEMBER 2. SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE ENDORSED THE PROPOSALS WHILE SEEKING TO REASSURE WHITE RHODESIANS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE.

2. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS REFUSED TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN RHODESIA PLAN ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR AN OUTSIDER TO DO SO WHILE THE PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED HAVE NOT YET CLARIFIED THEIR POSITIONS.
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IAN SMITH, PRESUMABLY PREOCCUPIED WITH FORMATION OF HIS POST-ELECTION GOVERNMENT, HAS SO FAR HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO HIS SEPT 2 PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS.

3. MEANWHILE, SEEING WISDOM IN DISTANCING THEMSELVES FROM SMITH AT THIS TIME AND POSSIBLY MOVED TO TAKE A PUBLIC STAND BY REPORTS OF POPULAR FRONT REJECTION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN

PROPOSALS, SITHOLE AND MUZOREWA HAVE SPOKEN OUT IN FAVOR OF THOSE PROPOSALS. ACCORDING TO MEDIA ACCOUNTS, SITHOLE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY VOCAL SINCE THE WEEKEND IN DENOUNCING AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT LED BY SMITH AND URGING PURSUIT OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SMITH IS TRYING TO "FRUSTRATE" THAT PLAN "TO BUY MORE TIME AND DELAY THINGS FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS....MR. SMITH WOULD APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT HE CAN HOLD HIS OWN WITH THE AID OF BLACK PUPPETS AND STOOGES. WHAT USEFUL PURPOSE COULD BE SERVED BY MR. SMITH'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHEN THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAV PRODUCED THE PRESENT PROPOSALS WHICH HOLD BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT." SITHOLE ASSERTED THAT, IF HE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH SMITH'S "BROAD-BASED GOVERNMENT", IT WOULD "DESTROY MY OWN CREDITBILITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS, BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES. WHY SHOULD WE BE A PARTY TO SOMETHING THAT THREATENS TO THROW OUT THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL (WHICH)...HAS AT LEAST SOME CHANCE OF SUCCESS." (COMMENT: THIS REJECTION OF AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT CONTRASTS WITH SITHOLE'S READINESS TO DEAL WITH SMITH A FEW WEEKS AGO. WHEN AMBASSADOR ASKED RHODESIAN REP. HAWKINS ABOUT SITHOLE'S RECENT STATEMENT, HAWKINS SOMEWHAT SOURLY OBSERVED SITHOLE "SAYS ONE THING IN PUBLIC BUT ANOTHER IN PRIVATE".)

4. AS FOR MUZOREWA, ONE OF HIS SPOKESMEN REPORTEDLY ALSO CONDEMNED SMITH FOR FAILURE TO COME UP WITH ANYTHING POSITIVE.
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"IF HE WANTS TO BE POSITIVE, HE HAD BEST START OFF WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS."

5. MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE HAVE BOTH ALSO BEEN BUSY TRYING TO REASSURE THE WHITE POPULATION. SPEAKING TO FARMERS IN NORTON, MUZOREWA SAID THEY WOULD HAVE A SECURE AND STABLE FUTURE IN BLACK-RULED ZIMBABWE. CERTAIN CHANGES WOULD COME, PARTICULARLY IN LAND DISTRIBUTION, BUT A MUZOREWA GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY. "WE WILL NOT ALLOW ZIMBABWE TO TURN INTO A BANANA REPUBLIC." IN LIKE MANNER, SITHOLE TOLD WHITE FARMERS THEY WOULD BE NEEDED IN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE.
BOWDLER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES)
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